

REMARKS

The Examiners withdrawal of the prior rejections under were 35 USC § 112 first paragraph, 102 and 103 is acknowledged with appreciation.

Claims 45-48 have been cancelled by way of this Response. Therefore, the rejection of those claims has been obviated.

Claims 25-48 were rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting over U.S. Patent Nos. 6,260,247; 6,269,525; and co-pending Application Serial No. 09/569,951 (now U.S. Patent No. 6,716,775). The requested Terminal Disclaimer has been submitted herewith. Therefore, those rejections have been overcome.

CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully submit that the claims are in condition for allowance, and a notice to that effect is earnestly solicited. Should the Examiner find that any issues remain outstanding following consideration of this Response, she is invited to telephone the undersigned in the interest of resolving such matters in an expedient manner.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sara M. Current", with a stylized flourish at the end.

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